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From Our Founder

By Bob Wichlinski

Counterproductive Technology

[Full Story](#)[Discussion](#)

In a recent conversation with my sister-in-law we raised the issue of effective communication. She was describing a recent race down & back to/from West Lafayette to retrieve their Purdue student for a family function. I wondered aloud, "my niece is on Facebook, so is my son (I know this because I routinely read their posts). She attends Purdue in West Lafayette, my son attends Wabash in nearby Crawfordsville. When he returns home he drives right by Purdue. Our home near Boone Grove is ~5 miles from their home in Valparaiso." Get the picture?



Despite e-mail, cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, and texting neither employs these tools to communicate and cooperate. They post pictures, comment on each others' status, offer insight to their daily goings-on; but they can't, won't or don't seem to see how these toys are tools. She had to express the need, "Cousin, if you're goin' home this weekend I could sure use a ride." He had to extend an invitation, "hey, if you ever need a ride home, be sure to let me know."

All that time saved. All that fuel saved. All that hassle eliminated. All that money invested in technology. So close, but yet so far. We made our way to bucket #5, but missed critical bucket #6 and through our fingers slipped the grand prize Schwinn "Fastback" bicycle. All we get is the hosiery for mom and the pizza for the family.

Fred's Corner

by Fred Cicco

Evelyn's Boy Harry

[Full Story](#)[Discussion](#)

I'm not really a fan of country music. Like the rest of my generation, I grew up on Motown. The Beatles. Elvis. James

5 Under 6

Tips, tricks, and tales from trenches...

By Andrea Evans

What You Learn in Kindergarten...

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As the school year draws to an end, my husband and I were recently having a conversation about the "life skills" that our 6 year-old son has learned in kindergarten. The discussion mainly focused on how these very simple things that he has learned this year, can really be applied to everyday life and relationships for adults, both in business and personally. Obviously, the basic manners and respect that are learned are very important, as kindergarten is really the first step into life in terms of responsibilities and relationships. But, as my husband and I began to list other things that my son has learned, we began to realize just how many other basic, fundamental and important life lessons that are taught so very early on in our lives.



A friend of ours once said, "God gave you two ears and one mouth, so you should listen twice as much as you speak." This is a valuable lesson that I know has been reinforced daily in his class. But, strangely enough, it's also something that in business or personal relationships that also holds true. It's human nature to think about what to say next, or interject with excitement while someone else is speaking. If we all abide by the "If my mouth is speaking, then your ears should be listening" theory as they do in the classroom, perhaps people wouldn't interrupt quite as often, allowing the person speaking to finish their thought.

Around daRegion

Photos and Commentary by Neil Wichlinski

Stop the Car

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Currently

**48 °F**

Clear

Feels Like: 48 °F

Humidity: 89%

Wind: CALM calm

[Hour-by-hour](#)

Today's Outlook

**79/50 °F**

Sunny

[10-day](#)

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generation, I grew up on Motown, the Beatles, Elvis, James Taylor, Doors, Doobies, Hendrix, and many others. Country is o.k., but not really my cup of tea. I like some of the rock country, but I draw the line at the twangy stuff. I remember the first time I heard "don't drop kick me Jesus through the goal posts of Heaven". I just can't enjoy those tragic heartfelt lyrics that seem to be part of every country song.

One day I stopped at the insurance office that my sister Theresa works at in Merrillville. She had gone to the post office and her boss Harry was sitting in his office listening to some music. I said hi and sat down in the chair across from his desk and didn't really pay any attention to what was playing. He said he wanted to show me his album. I thought to myself that I really didn't want to spend half the afternoon looking at vacation photos but I finally agreed. What he brought me was a music CD with his picture on the front. I said this is really cool, where did you get it done. What I didn't realize was that the CD playing in the office was written and performed by Harry Dickson, Theresa's boss.



This photo was taken in Falling Waters neighborhood on 109th, just east of The Lakes of the Four Seasons. It was just before nightfall when my friend and I were driving through this neighborhood. We were passing over a bridge when I sighted the sky's reflection on the lake and demanded that my friend stop the car. I flew out of the passenger door and ran to the edge of the bridge to snap this photo.

As I returned to the car I gazed at this photo and realized that I had successfully been able to capture the sky's lighting at its full potential. I feel that this scene shows that even an urbanized area in Northwest Indiana can be as appealing to the eyes as the farmland I've become so accustomed to.

